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their triumphant return with Burnside in September, 1863, are described with spirit and with much sympathy. The more important of the concluding chapters are devoted to the siege of Knoxville, to the antecedents of the Union party in East Tennessee, and to a discussion of the question: "Why were the People of East Tennessee Loyal in 1861?" The chapters on secession and on abolitionism in general, are perhaps the least interesting and important in the book. On these subjects it was hardly possible to present new facts or arguments.

The author devotes much space to the Unionist leaders, to whose influence, largely, he attributes the course of East Tennessee, at least two-thirds of whose inhabitants remained steadfastly loyal. Among these leaders were Andrew Johnson, Horace Maynard, William G. Brownlow, Thomas A. R. Nelson and Judge Temple. They were men of ability, courage and force, and unquestionably exerted great influence. But it is submitted that their influence was stimulative and not creative. They were influential mainly because they were representative. The essential causes of the loyalty of East Tennessee are to be traced in her history from the beginning. From 1809 an anti-slavery propaganda had existed there. The people as a rule were not slave-holders, the country was not adapted to slave labor, the churches opposed slavery and the people were intensely religious, and mountain people are proverbially independent and conservative. These large general causes made East Tennessee loyal in 1861 and the leaders were effective because they were in sympathy with the people.

Judge Temple has made a valuable contribution to the history of Tennessee and of the Civil War. There are "positive contributions to knowledge," which are of interest and of value in every chapter except those which re-state the early history of Tennessee and those which are devoted to the general subjects of secession and abolition, and these last are, nevertheless, interesting and valuable.

JOSHUA W. CALDWELL.

Life of Charles Henry Davis, Rear-Admiral, 1807-1877. By his Son, Captain CHARLES H. DAVIS, U. S. N. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1899. Pp. 349.)

THE chief claim of this biography to public notice is the light it throws on a number of interesting and important events of the Civil War, in which its subject was a distinguished actor.

Admiral Davis came of New England stock, his family living in Boston and Cambridge. He entered the Navy in 1823, after spending two years at Harvard. He was fortunate in having Commodore Isaac Hull as his first commander. His early experience was not unlike that of young officers of the day.

The departure came in 1840. With scientific tastes, he found the opportunity of returning to Cambridge, took his degree, and subsequently was employed in the Coast Survey. From now on to the Civil War, ex-

cept for a brief cruise in the Pacific, he was engaged in detached scientific duty, with headquarters in Cambridge. In 1849 he established the *American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac*, in the opinion of his biographer his best title to distinction. A number of translations and scientific works were the result of habits formed at this time.

He was called to Washington in 1861. His first important service was as a member of the secret conference to formulate plans for combined military and naval operations; which is of interest in view of the public attention paid to the workings of the board of strategy in the Spanish War, then generally supposed to be a new idea. As a matter of fact, such duties will always be necessary and can best be performed by a permanently organized body, after the manner of the German general staff, which does its principal work in time of peace. Davis also served on the board that authorized the building of the *Monitor*.

His first war service was as chief of staff to Du Pont on the Port Royal expedition, an undertaking recommended by the conference. The outcome was the brilliant capture of forts by wooden ships, an almost unique example, as the biographer says. There had, however, been other historical instances.

Davis's next important duty was in command of the Mississippi Flotilla in the summer of 1862. He went out in May to assist Foote, who was sick; but he really took over the command at once, Foote leaving immediately for the North, though his flag was kept flying. In the decisive battles of Fort Pillow and Memphis the Confederate power on the river was practically annihilated. It was not until later that Davis flew his own flag; a fact, however, that does not detract from his credit. He returned to Washington the following autumn and became chief of the new bureau of navigation, where he remained till the end of the war. The thanks of Congress for his services enabled him to remain on active duty till the time of his death, which occurred at the Naval Observatory in Washington, in 1877, at the age of seventy.

Davis was among the half-dozen most distinguished naval officers of the war. The man himself is clearly seen in his own letters, which are freely quoted throughout the book. Those dealing with the war, in their criticism of men and events, are of permanent interest. One cannot fail to gain the impression in reading them that the author was a man of uncommon breadth of mind and ability, and one who bore responsibility lightly.

A letter somewhat out of keeping with the rest severely criticizes Preble for not capturing the *Florida* at Madeira, notwithstanding the neutrality of the port. It would be interesting to know if this view prevailed extensively in the service. The significance is that the *Florida* came to an end eventually in exactly in this way, being captured by the *Wachusett* in the port of Bahia, Brazil.

The biographer dwells on the changed conditions from old days, when an officer's success depended entirely on his own efforts. There was no naval academy before 1845, and the midshipmen entered the service too

young to obtain much previous schooling. He considers this condition to have been a not unmixed evil, as the good men came to the front naturally and the poorer ones dropped out. There is nothing in Davis's letters to indicate that he himself held these views. The idea is that the present "shallow and illiberal scheme" at the Naval Academy attaches too much importance to theory at the expense of practice. If this condition really exists, it can be corrected instantly by counting proficiency in drills and practical work as of equal value with theoretical study, which is not now the custom.

Captain Davis has made an interesting addition to naval literature. His own personality is kept well in the background, and in his allusions to his father there is less eulogy apparent than might easily spring from a son's pardonable pride in the career of a distinguished father.

ROY C. SMITH.

Letters and Recollections of John Murray Forbes. Edited by his Daughter, SARAH FORBES HUGHES. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1899. Two vols., pp. ix, 351; vii, 264.)

Now that most of the great generals of the Civil War—and some of the smaller ones—have had their lives written, it is quite time to give to the public the memoirs of some of those great civilians who, without public office or personal fame, not merely provided for the nation the financial sinews of war but also much of the sense, the discretion and the patience which made its prolongation possible. No one of these was more valuable to his country from the outset than John Murray Forbes, of Boston. He was present at the very beginning, to take part in that wise divergence of the Northern troops through Annapolis which really saved Washington, a measure which originated with a plain railway superintendent and was opposed strongly by General Butler, although he characteristically claimed the credit of it when it succeeded. Forbes was practically, in his own phrase, "Secretary of the Navy for Massachusetts," at the outset, purchasing provisions and drawing on his own nautical experience for the instruction of captains. He was one of the half-dozen men who organized the great Sanitary Commission and sustained it. He vibrated between Boston, New York and Washington, always bracing up the financial side of the war and steadfastly keeping his own name out of print. He organized the New England Loyal Publication Society, of which he was president. He heartily sustained General Hunter's early efforts to enlist colored troops, long before Governor Andrew was permitted to undertake it. He was sent to England by the Secretaries of State and of the Navy with authority to arrange a loan of a million sterling on the security of twenty million dollars in five-twenty bonds, and, by his courage and fidelity, carried through ultimately his purpose, although at first sight it appeared a failure. He spent two years of the war in Washington with his family, expressly to retain his opportunity of usefulness, and was always the same keen, fearless, influential adviser.